

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 EB-08 DOTE-00
COME-00 /102 W

-----072234 191214Z /44

R 181406Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8836
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4099

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SY, GW
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ASSAD'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WEST GERMANY

1. ACCORDING TO WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR ARRANGEMENTS ARE
WELL IN TRAIN FOR PRES. ASSAD'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WEST
GERMANY SEPT. 11-15. SYRIAN DELEGATION WOULD INCLUDE THREE
MINISTERS IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR
DAOUDY AND LARGE NUMBER OF TECHNICAL LEVEL OFFICIALS AND
PRESS. FOLLOWING OFFICIAL TALKS IN BONN, TOURIST VISIT
TO AN AREA OF WEST GERMANY WOULD BE ARRANGED. AMBASSADOR
SAID THAT UPON LEARNING THAT ASSAD WOULD VISIT EAST GERMANY
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IN LATE AUGUST, LESS THAN ONE MONTH BEFORE HIS
VISIT TO BONN, HE HAD REACTED STRONGLY TO SARG
(SO THEY WOULD KNOW FRG NOT PLEASED WITH THIS DEVELOP-
MENT) BUT HAD CABLED BONN THAT SUCH SYRIAN BALANCING
WAS TO BE EXPECTED AND THAT ASSAD'S BEING ABLE TO COMPARE
THE TWO SOCIETIES IN SHORT TIME FRAME WOULD IMPACT IN
FAVOR OF WEST GERMANY.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN PREPARING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ISSUES FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT. FOLLOWING UP ON INDICATION TO FONMIN KHADDAM DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN LAST JUNE THAT WEST GERMANY WOULD BE PREPARED TO FINANCE MAJOR PROJECT IN SYRIA (DAMASCUS 3442 NOTAL), SYRIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION TRAVELED TO BONN LAST WEEK TO PRESENT SIX SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS TO FRG:
A) A STEEL PLANT (WHICH AMBASSADOR SAID RUHR INDUSTRIALISTS WOULD SURELY REJECT); B) 600 MW NUCLEAR POWER PLANT;
C) LATAKIA-ARIHA HIGHWAY; D) DEIR EZ-ZOR-ABU-KAMAL RAILWAY;
E) ROLLING MILL AND HOT ROLLING MILL (USING IMPORTED STEEL);
F) 200,000 TELEPHONE LINES IN SYRIA.

3. AMBASSADOR SAW VISIT AS TIMELY INDICATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN INTEREST IN SYRIA WHICH WOULD ASSIST ASSAD AND HIS GOVERNMENT TO RESIST CLOSER AND MORE EXCLUSIVE ASSOCIATION WITH EAST EUROPE AND SOVIET UNION.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

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